

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-25. Canceled.

26. (New) A track for a toy vehicle, comprising:

a base;

a guide groove formed in the base, the guide groove being configured to receive a guide follower of a toy vehicle, wherein the guide groove includes at least one fork with first and second branches such that a toy vehicle guided by the guide groove could follow two different paths;

a switch arm that is pivotally mounted on the base at the fork in the guide groove, wherein the switch arm is moveable between a first position at which it will guide a toy vehicle along the first branch of the fork and a second position at which it will guide a toy vehicle along the second branch of the fork, wherein the switch arm includes a cam profile that can slidably engage a retractable switch member of a toy vehicle traveling along the guide groove to cause the switch arm to move from the first position to the second position; and

a biasing member mounted on the base that biases the switch arm into the first position.

27. (New) The track of claim 26, wherein the switch arm includes a lever arm that extends from a side of the switch arm, and wherein the biasing member comprises a spring having a first end attached to the lever arm and a second end attached to the base.

28. (New) The track of claim 26, wherein the switch arm comprises:
an elongated base having a pivot hole at a first end, and the cam profile on a second opposite end; and
a guide surface that protrudes upward from the base, wherein the guide surface extends from a position adjacent the pivot hole along less than the total length of the base.

29. (New) The track of claim 28, wherein the switch arm is mounted on the base under the fork in the guide groove such that when a toy vehicle passes along the guide groove, a bottom surface of a guide follower of the toy vehicle will pass over the base.

30. (New) The track of claim 29, wherein when the switch arm is located in the first position, the guide surface of the switch arm bridges an apex of the fork in the guide groove with a first sidewall of an upstream portion of the guide groove such that the guide surface will guide a guide follower of a toy vehicle traveling along the guide groove along the first branch of the fork in the guide groove.

31. (New) The track of claim 30, wherein when the switch arm is located in the second position, the guide surface of the switch arm bridges the apex of the fork with a second sidewall of an upstream portion of the guide groove such that the guide surface will guide a

guide follower of a toy vehicle traveling along the guide groove along the second branch of the fork in the guide groove.

32. (New) The track of claim 28, wherein the switch arm is mounted on the track such that a toy vehicle traveling along the guide groove will pass the cam profile of the switch arm before passing a leading edge of the guide surface.

33. (New) The track of claim 28, further comprising first and second electrical conductors located on a top surface of base and on first and second sides, respectively, of the guide groove, wherein the first and second electrical conductors are configured to supply electricity to brushes of a toy vehicle traveling along the guide groove.

34. (New) The track of claim 33, wherein the switch arm further comprises:
a first bridging electrical conductor extending along a first side of the guide surface of the switch arm; and
a second bridging electrical conductor extending along a second side of the guide surface of the switch arm, wherein the first and second bridging electrical connectors are configured to supply electricity to brushes on a guide follower of a toy vehicle moving along the guide groove.

35. (New) The track of claim 34, wherein the first electrical conductor is movably mounted on the switch arm, and wherein the first electrical conductor is biased into a position at which it that extends away from the first side of the guide surface of the switch arm.

36. (New) The track of claim 33, further comprising a transmitter that transmits a digital control signal through the first and second electrical conductors.

37. (New) The track of claim 36, wherein the transmitter sends a digital control signal that includes a vehicle identification code.

38. (New) The track of claim 36, wherein the transmitter sends a digital control signal that includes a speed control command.

39. (New) The track of claim 36, wherein the transmitter sends a digital control signal that include a switching command.

40. (New) A toy vehicle, comprising:
a body with wheels that are rotatably mounted on the body;
an electrical motor mounted on the body and coupled to at least one of the wheels so that rotation of the motor will cause the vehicle to move; and
a guide follower mounted to a bottom of the body, the guide follower comprising:
first and second brushes that are configured to contact first and second electrical conductors on a top surface of a track, wherein the brushes are coupled to the motor to thereby conduct electricity from the electrical conductors on the track to the motor,
a guide arm that extends downward from the body, wherein the guide arm is configured to extend into a guide groove of a track to guide the toy vehicle along the track, and

a retractable switch member mounted on the guide arm, wherein the switch member is movable from an upper position to a lower position, and wherein a lower end of the switch member extends below a lower surface of the guide arm when the switch member is in the lower position.

41. (New) The toy vehicle of claim 40, further comprising a switch activator that moves the switch member between the upper and lower positions.

42. (New) The toy vehicle of claim 41, further comprising a biasing member that biases the retractable switch member into the upper position.

43. (New) The toy vehicle of claim 41, wherein the switch activator comprises a solenoid coupled to the switch member.

44. (New) The toy vehicle of claim 41, wherein the switch activator comprises:
a solenoid mounted on the body; and
a lever arm extending between the solenoid and an upper portion of the switch member, wherein activation of the solenoid causes the lever arm to move the switch member to the lower position.

45. (New) The toy vehicle of claim 40, wherein the guide follower further comprises first and second electrical contacts located on first and second sides of the guide arm, wherein

the first and second electrical contacts are coupled to the motor to thereby conduct electricity to the motor.

46. (New) The toy vehicle of claim 40, further comprising a receiver coupled to the first and second brushes, wherein the receiver receives a digital control signal that is transmitted through electrical conductors on a top surface of a track along which the toy vehicle travels.

47. (New) The toy vehicle of claim 46, further comprising a controller that receives the digital control signal from the receiver, and wherein the controller controls a speed of the vehicle based on the control signal.

48. (New) The toy vehicle of claim 47, wherein at least one of the controller and the receiver checks an address portion of a digital control signal to determine if the digital control signal is intended for the toy vehicle, and wherein the controller only controls the vehicle speed and the switch activator if a control signal is addressed to the toy vehicle.

49. (New) The toy vehicle of claim 47, wherein the controller operates the switch activator based on the control signal.

50. (New) The toy vehicle of claim 40, wherein the guide follower is rotationally mounted on the body.